



HELLENIC
INDUSTRIAL
PROPERTY
ORGANISATION

2020

ANNUAL REPORT

OBI

**National institution for the
protection of inventions &
industrial designs and for the
provision of technological
information**

PREFACE

Year 2020 was unquestionably a unique year with unprecedented and unforeseeable upheavals globally. Accordingly, OBI could not remain unaffected by the new circumstances imposed by the pandemic, on the other hand the Organisation demonstrated immediate adaptability and flexibility.

Despite the objective difficulties due to both remote work and the execution of activities and cooperations exclusively by internet, our Organisation has improved and grown.

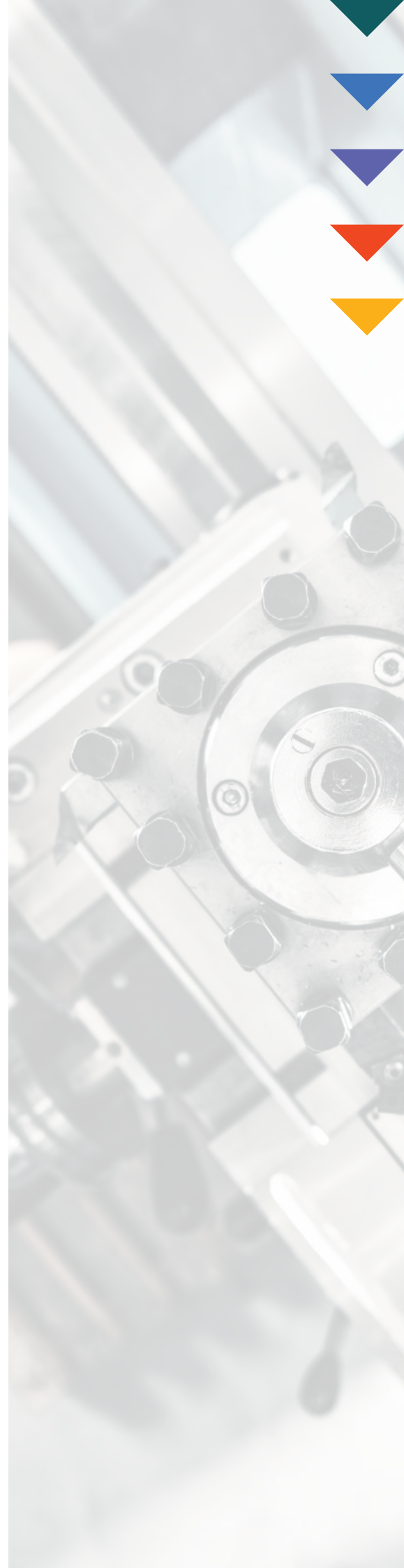
Aiming at the enhancement of innovation in Greece and the promotion and facilitation of the interested parties to protect their inventions, OBI decided to reduce the Search Report fees by 33%, thereby achieving a significant increase in filings by 30%.

Furthermore, OBI upgraded its services, e.g. Electronic Filing, set the new electronic-filing system for Industrial Designs in operation, organised the 4th Hellenic Inventor Awards competition upon completion of a century from the first patent and undertook projects of high importance in European level.

Finally, the foundations were laid for OBI to acquire the competence and full responsibility for Trademarks, which will lead to the gathering of Industrial Property under one roof.

Year 2020, despite the negative conditions, was for OBI a year of multi-level development, creativity and prominence. It was a preparatory year for the following, more significant, years to come.

Panagiotis Kanellopoulos
OBI Director General



STATISTICS

SEARCH REPORTS

In 2020, OBI decided a significant reduction in search report fees by 33%.

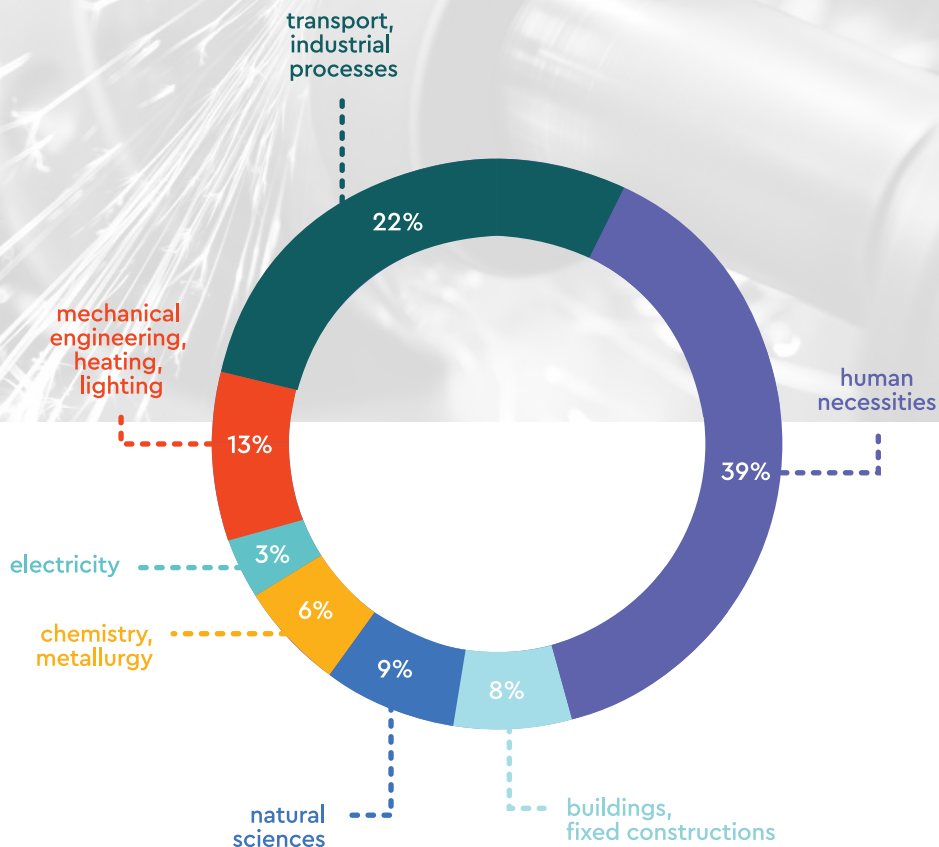
The positive impact of this reduction was immediate. In the 2nd semester of 2020, in which this reduction was applied, the proportion of applicants who paid the search report fee and whose application completed the patent grant procedure –without being converted to a Utility Model Certificate (UMC) – increased by 15%.

In the end of 2020, the search reports of all patent applications were completed within 12 months from the filing date, so that the applicant would have sufficient time to decide to pursue patent protection abroad.

The 308 patent applications examined related to all spectrum of science and technology. Their distribution in technology fields is shown in the following diagram along with the respective proportion over the whole number of applications.



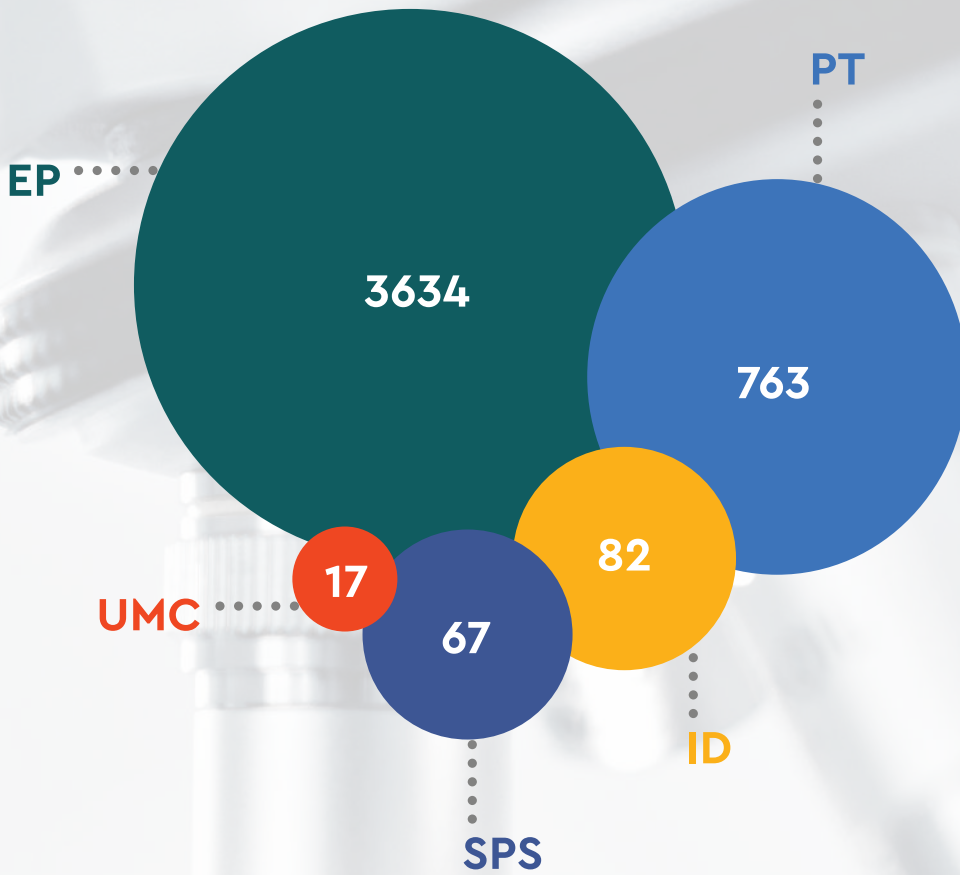
DISTRIBUTION OF PATENT APPLICATIONS IN 2020 PER TECHNOLOGY FIELD



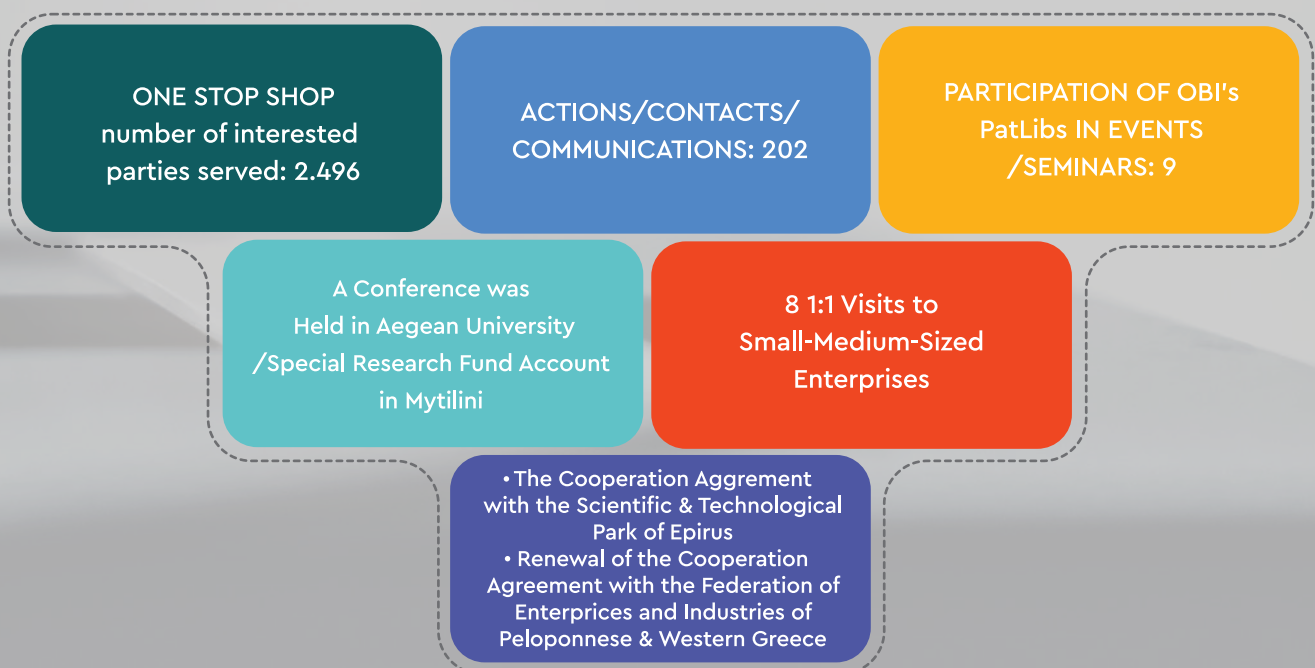
In 2020, the field of Human necessities was again by far the one with the majority patent applications, most of which related to:

- ▶ Medical devices
- ▶ Medical instruments and tools
- ▶ Implants and artificial members

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY TITLES (FILINGS)

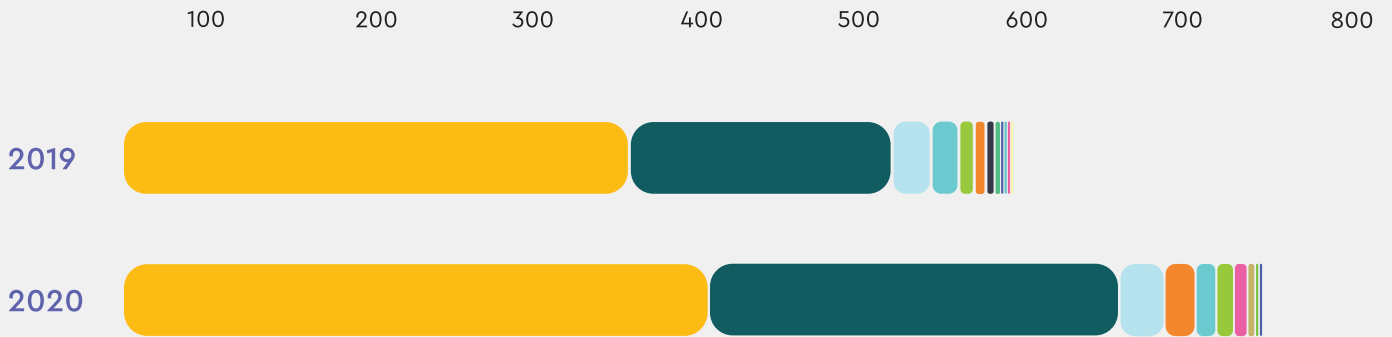


62 Preliminary Searches were Completed

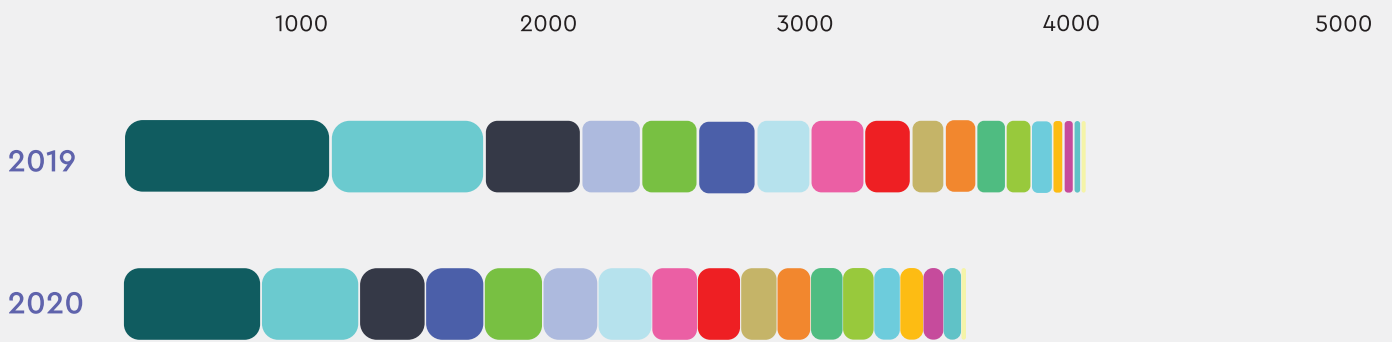


COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN 2019–2020

PT – COUNTRIES OF ORIGINS



EP – FILINGS IN GREECE



- ▲ GREECE
- ▲ USA
- ▲ FRANCE
- ▲ REPUBLIC OF KOREA
- ▲ GERMANY
- ▲ JAPAN
- ▲ UNITED KINGDOM
- ▲ INDIA
- ▲ SPAIN
- ▲ CHINA
- ▲ ITALY
- ▲ RUSSIA
- ▲ SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES
- ▲ OTHER COUNTRIES
- ▲ BALKAN COUNTRIES
- ▲ OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES
- ▲ OTHER COUNTRIES EPC
- ▲ OTHER COUNTRIES OF AMERICA



OBI ACTIVITIES

Hellenic Inventor Awards in the context of the celebration of 100 years from the first patent grant in Greece (1920–2020)

OBI, in the framework of the celebration of 100 years from the first patent grant in Greece, organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Development and Investments the **4th Hellenic Inventor Award competition**.

Continuing the institution that was inaugurated in 2002 and aiming at the material and ethical reward of distinguished inventors for their contribution in technological progress and at the enhancement of the inventive innovation in our country, OBI invited all inventors who are residents in Greece and have an activity in Universities, Research Centers, small-medium-sized enterprises (SME) as well as independent physical persons, owners of patents, to participate in the competition.

The evaluation of the inventions by the Evaluation Committee will be based on their individual inventive activity, their prospects of contributing in the technological and industrial development of the country, and the quality of the search report, which should not contain documents of the previous state of the art which affect the novelty or inventive step of the invention.

The procedure will be completed in 2021 with an award ceremony and a financial reward to the winners.

Production of a video promoting public awareness about the purchase of authentic products and the combat of falsification and counterfeiting

Having in mind the OECD-EUIPO studies concerning the losses in sales and jobs experienced in Europe as a result of counterfeit trade and the fact that in Greece the direct lost sales amount is estimated to be 1.3 billion Euros per year, OBI performed activities to increase customer awareness on counterfeiting and create an IP mentality especially to the young generations.

In the framework of the EUIPO-OBI cooperation project, OBI decided to produce a pleasant video with S. Kalivatsis and F. Tsakiri as cast, demonstrating the negative impact of buying counterfeit products while promoting the consumption of authentic ones.

The video was approved by the National Council for Radio and Television and was presented on all media as a social message. Furthermore, via a sponsored campaign in social media, it has 2,270,000 impressions and 850,000 views.

Furthermore, promotional material showing the dangers deriving from the purchase of counterfeit products was distributed to consumers via bookstores and to the students of the Universities of Athens and Thessaloniki.

Participation in AUTHENTICITIES program

In 2020, Thessaloniki became a member of the AUTHENTICITIES network and the Program becomes part of the city's life. As of July, and for two consequent years, the municipality of Thessaloniki, the city institutions, the residents and the visitors will cooperate to highlight and certify the city as "authentic/authenticity".

The AUTHENTICITIES program constitutes a coordinated attempt of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) in close cooperation with the IP offices of the EU member-states to foster among European citizens the culture of purchasing only authentic products, in order to protect the European businesses and the European economy against Intellectual Property Rights infringement.

The signature of the relevant Memorandum of Understanding between OBI and the Municipality of Thessaloniki established a cooperation aiming at raising awareness among the citizens and visitors of the city about the combat of illicit trade, the development of a culture of buying only original products, the support of local businesses as well as the contribution of all parties in the protection of Industrial Property. The project aims at informing target groups which in the long-term will function as multipliers for the following generations, e.g. university students, pupils as well as target groups competent for the location and notification of an infringement, e.g. enforcement authorities (tax authorities, police, municipal police, customs, port police). For the promotion of this project, multiple media were employed, including TV and radio messages on local mass media, banners and posters at various sites of the city. Moreover a specialized application for smart phones, AUTHENTICITY THESSALONIKI App (for Android/iOS) was developed for "implementation in action", aiming at both informing on the activities of the project and at allowing the reporting about piracy in real time.

The inaugural event was praised with a greeting from Mr. Adonis Georgiadis, Minister of Development and Investments, and Mr. Theodoros Karaoglou, Vice Minister of Interior Affairs, competent for Macedonia-Thrace territory, demonstrating the significance of the program for the City of Thessaloniki.

The Metropolitan Area of Thessaloniki, the Chamber of Tradesmen, the Chamber of Small & Medium Sized Companies and the Economic Chamber of Thessaloniki will participate actively in the realization of the project and the promotion of the idea of the authentic city (authenticity).



AUTHENTICITY THESSALONIKI

THE AUTHENTIC
is eternal

Choose the Authentic!

OBI website is accessible to PWD

The OBI webpage is now accessible to PWD.

The website www.obigr.gr was conformed to the guidelines of the Consortium for the Global Net W3C HTML as well as to the guidelines for the Accessibility of the Net Content 2.0, WCAG 2.0 (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0).

In order to make the OBI website accessible to PWD that use special supportive technologies, the webpage includes a navigation aiding mechanism for PWD. The new features of the webpage include increasing or decreasing the font size, changing the colour contrast and voice text reading.



Articles from the OBI staff

In order that the OBI staff participates in the prominence of the OBI, the staff was invited to voluntarily author articles, based on their experience. Only in the second half of 2020, seven articles were collected, providing useful information about the Industrial Property protection system, explanations for better understanding of specialized concepts related to Industrial Property as well as useful information for better planning of strategic protection. These articles were published on the website and on the social networks of the Organisation.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND TRAINING

In a period of significant challenges and changes imposed by the pandemic on the wider ecosystem of human resources, the Organisation ensured the direct adaptation to the sudden change, taking care about the health and safety of its staff, creating conditions and policies for remote and alternate working, in harmonization with the laws and recommendations of the state.

OBI invested on the occupational as well as the personal progress of its staff, organizing training programs and participating on co-financed programs of the European Patent Academy (EPO) and European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) Academy.

In 2020, 893 hours of web training, addressed to 58 participants, took place.

New partners were trained to staff the 4 OBI's regional offices in:

Patra | **Heraklion** | **Volos** | **East Macedonia & Thrace**

Participation of OBI in the digitalization of the procedures for facilitating Greek citizens

OBI participates actively in the efforts of the Ministry of Digital Governance for the digitalization of the procedures of the state, aiming at improving the services to citizens and at reducing the time required for the completion of each procedure. In this regard, OBI participates in the founding and operation of the National Services Registry and the single digital gateway (gov.gr).

LEGISLATION

- Preparation of an amendment supplementing the Law 1733/1987 with a new paragraph (9A), regarding the waiver from the deadline of paragraph 9 and acceleration of the procedure.
- Ministerial Decision for the implementation by OBI of the provisions of the EC Regulation 2019/933 of the European Parliament and Council of 20th May 2019 for the amendment of the Regulation (EC) No. 469/2009 on the supplementary protection certificate for medicinal products.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

In 2020, OBI had an intense international presence for the preparation and representation of positions regarding current industrial property issues examined in the European Union, by the European Patent Office (EPO) and international fora as well as for the monitoring of the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement of the UK (Brexit) in respect of the industrial property rights administered by OBI. In particular, OBI participated in:

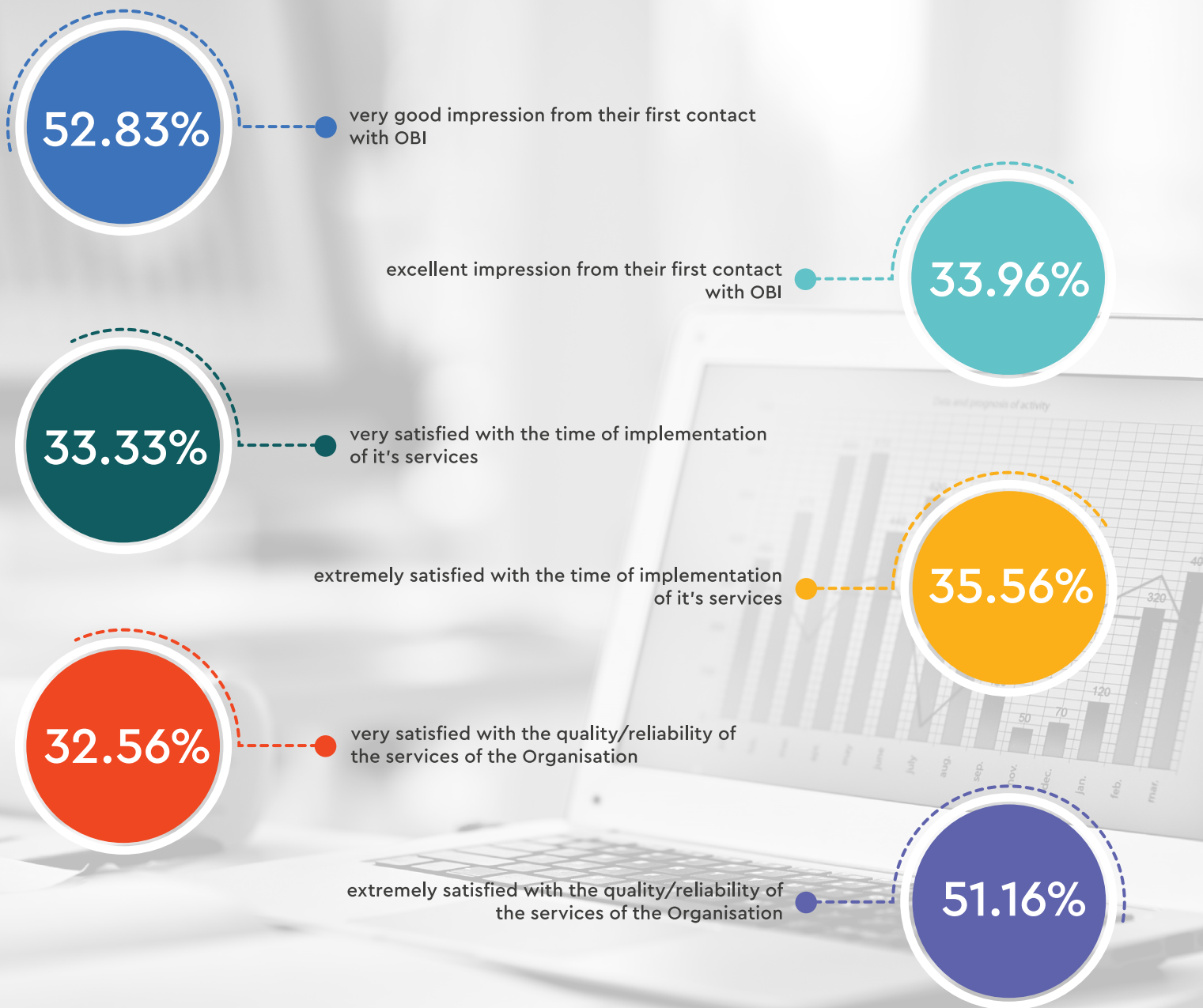
- ◆ The 61st General Assemblies of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), during which the following were approved: (i) the amendment of Rules 3, 7 and 21 of the Hague Agreement for the international registration of industrial designs, which makes the indication of the email of the applicant or his representative mandatory in the international applications as of 1/2/21, so that communication with applicants is facilitated, and (ii) a Recommendation to the member-states of the Paris Convention for the protection of industrial property, to take measures to prevent the loss of a priority right in emergency situations.
- ◆ Patent Law Committee of the EPO focusing on the convergence of practices of the industrial property offices regarding the designation of inventor and the examination of unity of invention and on the amendment of the Rules of the Munich Convention regarding the taking of evidence and oral proceedings before EPO Boards of Appeal.
- ◆ Annual meeting of the national patent offices of the group of developed countries (Group B+) focusing on the continuation of work on patent law harmonization.
- ◆ Plenary of the European Observatory for the infringement of Intellectual property rights, in which the introduction of Thessaloniki in the "Authenticity" network of cities was announced.
- ◆ WIPO Standing Committee on the Laws of Patents, where patent law issues are discussed.
- ◆ EU Council Intellectual Property Working Party, which prepared Council conclusions on IP Policy.
- ◆ EU Observatory for the enforcement of IPR Public Sector Representatives meeting.
- ◆ WIPO Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications, where graphical user interface issues were examined.
- ◆ Expert Group for intellectual property strategy (GIPP) of the European Commission, to discuss the impact of Covid-19 on IP.
- ◆ EPO working group examining the convergence of practice regarding the designation of inventor.
- ◆ EPO national offices cooperation meeting regarding cooperation projects & IP Offices' Covid-19 measures.

ISO CERTIFICATIONS

OBI has been certified by approved external bodies with ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 and ELOT 1429 certificates.

It should be noted that since 2009 –when the Quality management system according to ISO 9001:2008 standard was first applied- no declaration of “non-compliance” to internal or external inspection has been made.

OPINION OF THE PUBLIC FOR OBI IN 2020



PUBLICATION

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ABBREVIATIONS

PT	Patents
UMC	Utility Model Certificates
SPS	Supplementary Protection Certificates
ID	Industrial Designs
EP	European Patents
IND. P.	Industrial Property
IP	Intellectual Property



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